Homeless women in Delhi

862. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Housing and Land Rights Network, a human rights group, in its report has stated that there are about 10,000 homeless women in Delhi and only 3 shelters are available for them;

(b) whether the above group has demanded urgent measures to improve the lot of the shelter-less, especially women and children who are vulnerable to violence; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Housing and Land Rights Network, New Delhi, it has submitted a representation dated 19.1.2006 to the Government of NCT of Delhi regarding the problem of homelessness in Delhi. According to the representation, there are nearly one lakh homeless persons on any given day in Delhi, as per civil society estimates, of whom ten thousand are women. There are only 3 shelters available to these homeless women, capable of accommodating roughly 100 women. According to the representation, women and children tend to experience more acutely the adverse impacts of lack of adequate housing, such as increased risk of illness and starvation and heightened vulnerability to physical and sexual violence. The organization has called upon the Government of NCT of Delhi and the relevant municipal authorities to take various measures to properly address the situation, including its underlying causes.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the existing night shelters and shelters for destitute women are under occupied in comparison to their capacity. Efforts have been made to increase the occupancy. The Government of NCT of Delhi in partnership with reputed NGOs working for shelter less women is undertaking survey to assess the gap between demand and supply taking into consideration the capacity of all the existing women shelter

homes in Delhi, *i.e.*, those managed by the Government and those run by the NGOs.

Sex ratio of slum children

863. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in as many as 21 out of 26 States/UTs, the slum child sex ratio is higher than their non-slum counterparts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are taking the matter seriously to set right the things in future; and

(e) if so, the guidelines worked out so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement showing child sex ratio for non-slum urban and slum population is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low level of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. The last, but not the least, may be the latest trend of having preference for a small family of one son and one daughter. Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(d) and (e) A number of steps have been taken by the Government like:— (i) Setting up of National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, (ii) Setting up of National Support and